



Connecticut General Assembly
SENATE DEMOCRATS

Legislative Office Building, Room 3300
Hartford, Connecticut 06106-1591

We submit this testimony to express our strong support for **SB 598: AN ACT CONCERNING THE GROWING, CULTIVATION, PRODUCTION AND PROCESSING OF HEMP.**

In 2018, the Federal Farm bill changed policy regarding industrial hemp by removing it from the Controlled Substances Act. This opened the door for states to set up their own systems to regulate the hemp industry under enforcement plans submitted to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

In Connecticut, PA 15-202 legalized industrial hemp but failed to enact a law authorizing an industrial hemp pilot program, as authorized under the 2014 farm bill. Currently, Connecticut lags behind a majority of states and our immediate neighbors in setting up the regulatory and processing infrastructure needed for an industrial hemp program.

The Connecticut Hemp Association reports that there are more than 100 CT farmers who have expressed interest in planting hemp. With increasing demand, potentially high profit margins and interest from Connecticut farmers, we should be moving swiftly as a state towards setting up an industrial hemp program and diversifying Connecticut's agricultural industry.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter.

President Pro Tempore
Martin M. Looney
State Senator 11th District

Majority Leader
Bob Duff
State Senator 25th District

Mary Daugherty Abrams
State Senator 13th District

Dennis Bradley
State Senator 23rd District



Christine Cohen
State Senator 12th District



Mae Flexer
State Senator 29th District



James Maroney
State Senator 14th District



Julie Kushner
State Senator 24th District



Norm Needleman
State Senator 33rd District